Heavenly Children

The Brave Child

Imam al-Jawad (a)

11

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

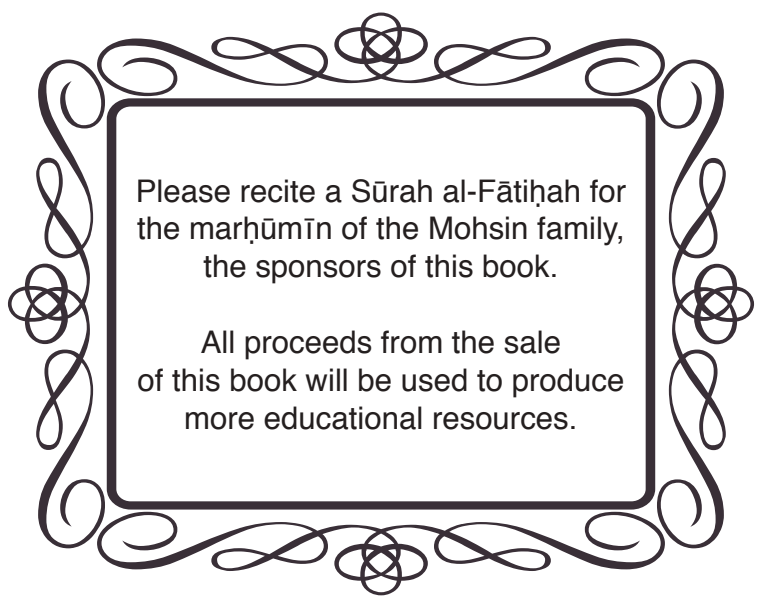
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

Ahmad had heard so many stories from Mama and Baba about many of the 14 Maʿṣūmīn they would be visiting on their ziyārah trip. Ahmad was learning about all the great qualities the Maʿṣūmīn had, like kindness, gentleness, and wisdom. Mama had told him about Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa) as a small child. Even as a young child, Imām ar-Riḍā could possess so much love and faith as to attract people towards him!

"Wow, I guess the Imāms (ʿa) are like bright stars that guide us," Ahmad remarked. "Are there any more Imāms buried in Mashhad with Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa)?"

"No, actually Imām ar-Riḍā's (ʿa) son, Imām Muḥammad al-Jawād (ʿa), is buried in Kāẓimayn, with his grandfather," Mama said.

"Baba, can you please tell me more about him?" Ahmad asked.

"Well, Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) is the ninth Imām and the son of Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa) and Ḥaḍrat Sabīkah. He was born on the 10th of Rajab in Medina and was poisoned by the evil caliph Muʿtaṣim on the 29th of Dhul Qaʿdah," Baba told him.

"Isn't he also known as Imām Muḥammad at-Taqī (ʿa)?" Ahmad asked

"Yes, one of his titles is at-Taqī—one who has taqwā." Baba answered.

"Taqwā? What is that again?" Ahmad asked shyly.

Mama smiled. "Taqwā is that great quality of being aware of Allah at all times, knowing He is watching you, and remembering Him when you make decisions. Imām at-Taqī (ʿa) has so much taqwā and was always conscious of Allah."

"When I grow up, I will also have a lot of taqwā, inshāʾAllāh!" Ahmad said.

"InshāʾAllāh! However, one does not need to be a grown-up to have taqwā! In fact, Imām at-Taqī (ʿa) became the Imām when he was only eight years old, and he already possessed all the great qualities! Even though he was so young, he was very wise and fearless! Let me tell you a story to show just how fearless he was!"

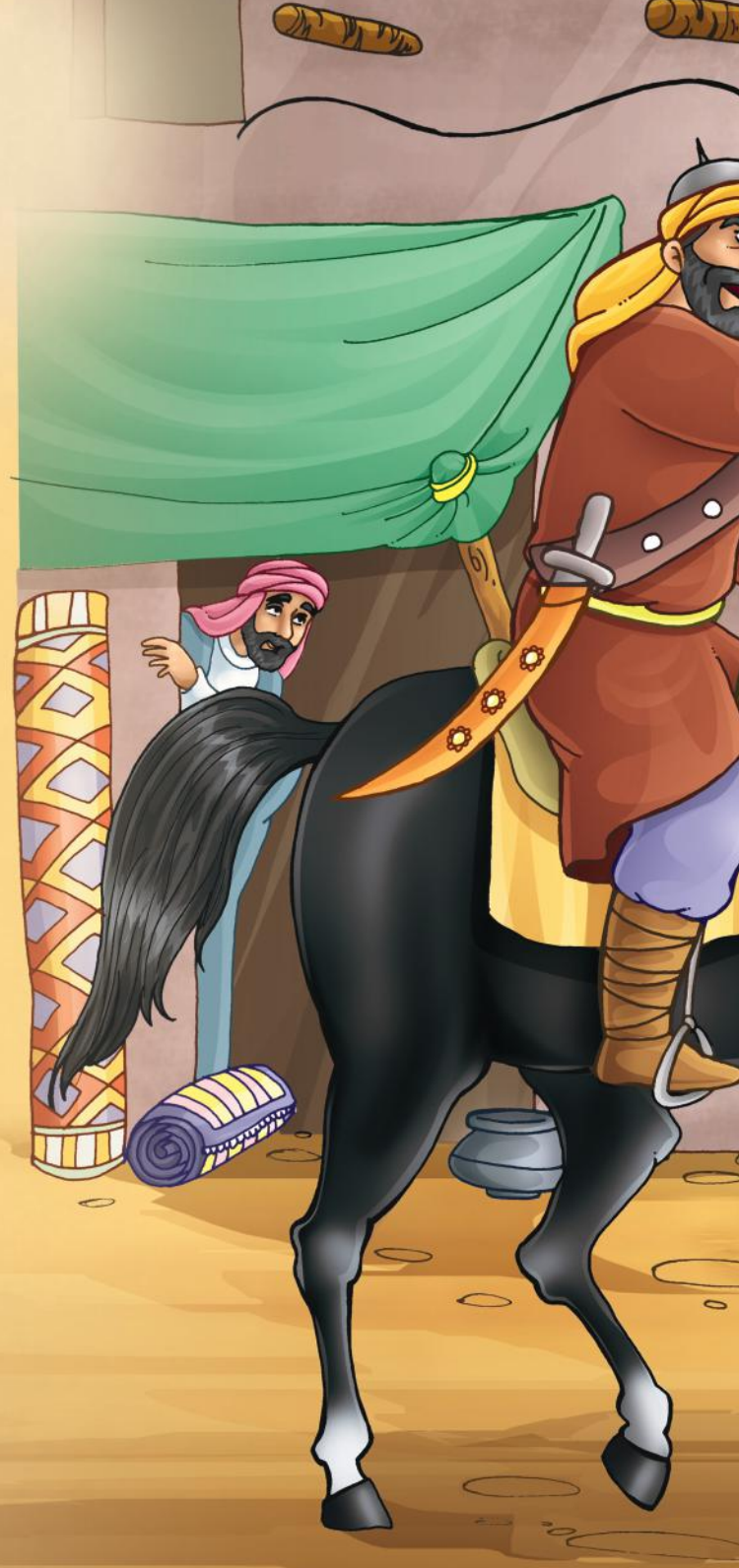
As the sun began rising over Baghdad, the city slowly came to life. People started getting ready to begin their day. The markets opened and crowds of people began to flock to the different stalls. The streets were lively with the hustle and bustle of the day's work. However, the peaceful morning was soon disturbed as the ground shook with the loud clacking of horses.

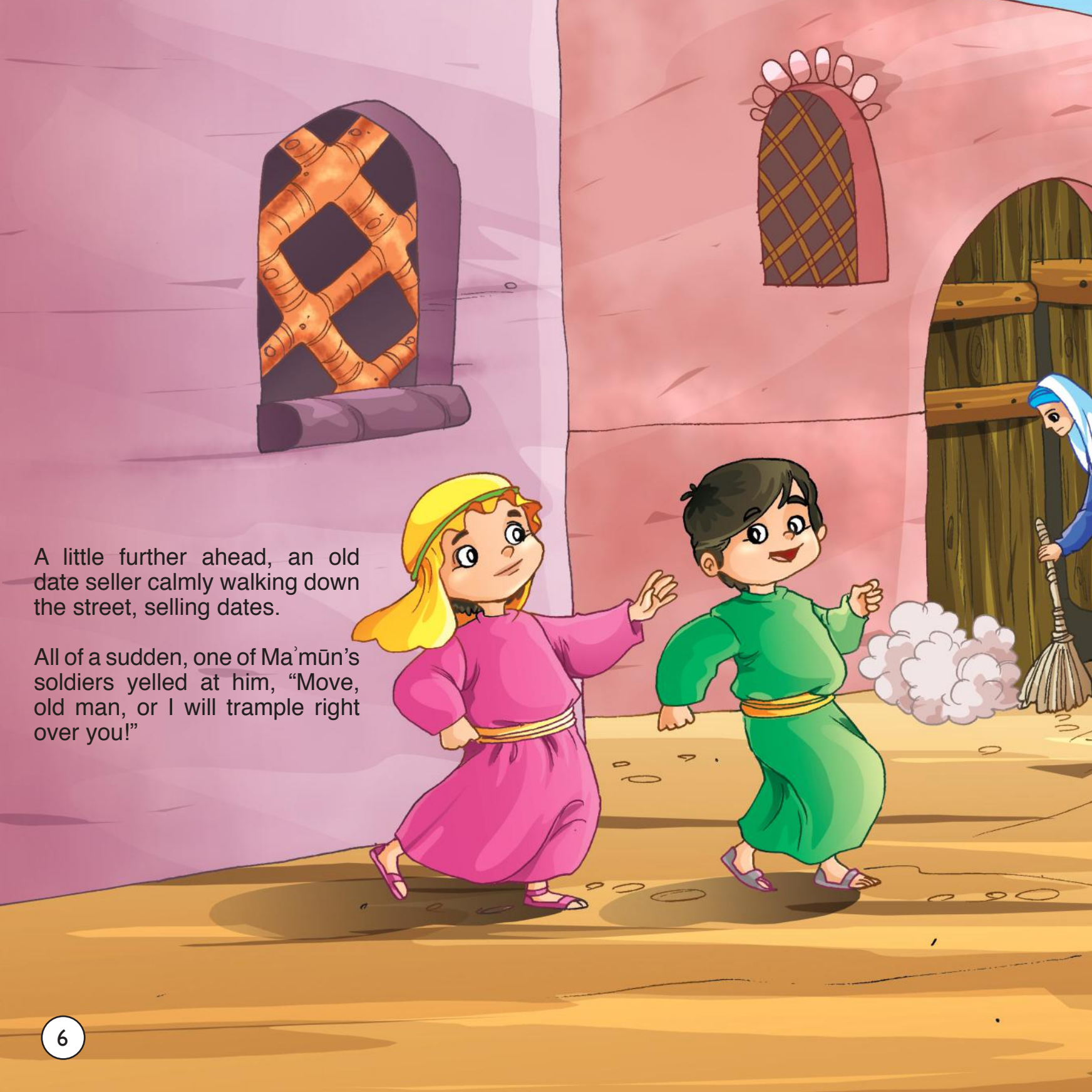
As people stepped outside their homes to see what was going on, they were attacked by two large soldiers on black horses.

The lashing noise of the whips was so loud and frightening that people began screaming and quickly ran back inside!

They fearfully peered out their windows, praying for the safety of everyone on the streets.

They could not understand why Maʾmūn, the evil Caliph, would be causing such a commotion with his soldiers—the roads were wide, and no one was blocking his way.





A little further ahead, an old date seller calmly walking down the street, selling dates.

All of a sudden, one of Maʾmūn's soldiers yelled at him, "Move, old man, or I will trample right over you!"

Before the old date seller could even blink, the soldier lashed his whip, hitting the man across the shoulder. The lash was so severe that the old man dropped his tray, and the dates tumbled all over the ground. He quickly tried to gather the dates, but it was too late; the horses had trampled all over them!

But this kind of treatment from the evil Maʾmūn was routine. People had become so upset and disgusted by his actions that they would curse him under their breath every time he and his soldiers passed by.

Maʾmūn continued making his way down the street. He neither took notice of anyone nor bothered saying salām to a single person. As he and his wicked soldiers rode through the city streets, they came to a road full of young children playing.

“Hey, you kids!” one of the soldiers roared. “Are you deaf?! Do you not hear us coming?! Move out of the way!”

As soon as the children heard the yells and loud clacking of the horses, they began screaming and fearfully ran back to their homes. But one eight-year-old boy did not move from his place.

He had not been playing, but had been sitting and watching all the other children play.

As the soldiers grew closer, the young child stood up. The peaceful expression on his face caused the soldiers to stop dead in their tracks. They were enchanted by the child’s bright face.

The young boy's peaceful face even caught Maʾmūn's attention. In fact, the child was so calm that Maʾmūn felt uneasy! He couldn't understand why this young boy was still outside, instead of running scared like the others.

Maʾmūn stopped in front of the small child and demanded, "Why didn't you run inside like all the other children?!"

The boy calmly replied, "Why should I go inside? The streets are very wide; you can easily pass through while others are still outside."

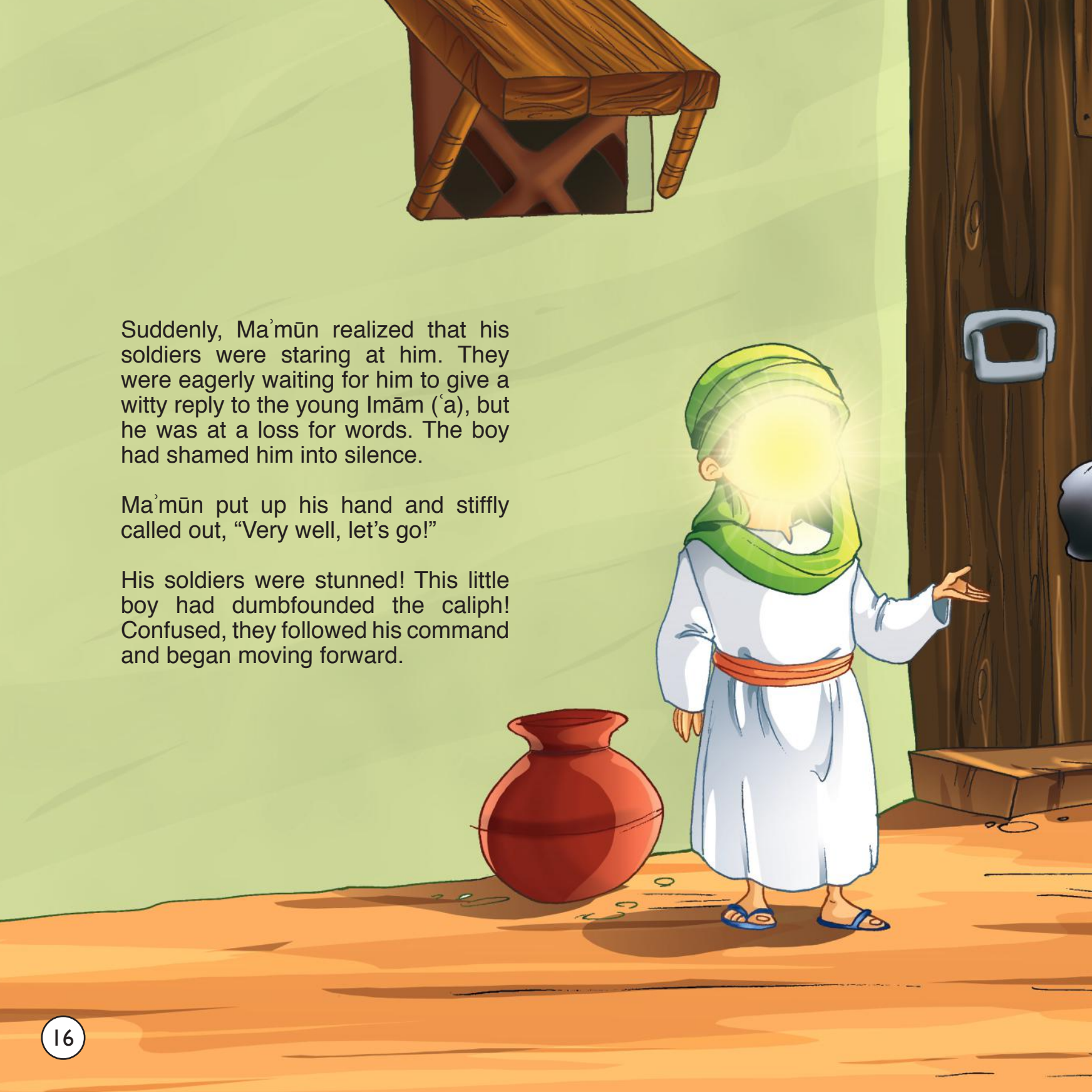
Maʾmūn was taken aback. How dare someone talk back to him like this—especially a child!

Maʾmūn finally managed to stutter, “What is your name?! Who is your father?!”

Once again, the young boy calmly replied, “My name is Muḥammad, and my father was ʿAlī.”

Maʾmūn immediately recognized this young child; he knew this was Imām Muḥammad al-Jawād (ʿa), the son of Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa). He now understood why this child had not run away frightened like the other children—he was from the brave lineage of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa).

Maʾmūn tried to turn away, but he couldn’t. It was as if his body had frozen in place. He felt ashamed because he knew that the Imām (ʿa) was aware that he had killed his father, Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa). Even though he had done it very secretly, everyone had eventually found out about Maʾmūn’s evil action. Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) looked straight into Maʾmūn’s eyes.



Suddenly, Maʾmūn realized that his soldiers were staring at him. They were eagerly waiting for him to give a witty reply to the young Imām (ʿa), but he was at a loss for words. The boy had shamed him into silence.

Maʾmūn put up his hand and stiffly called out, “Very well, let’s go!”

His soldiers were stunned! This little boy had dumbfounded the caliph! Confused, they followed his command and began moving forward.

As Maʾmūn and his soldiers moved through the streets, he could not stop thinking about the young Imām (ʿa). He felt belittled and angry. *How dare this child talk to me like this?! I'm the mighty caliph!* he thought, not feeling very mighty.

As Maʾmūn and his men rode further and further away from the city, a renewed sense of peace settled over the streets. All the children surrounded Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) and were so happy and proud of his bravery. Soon, the streets were once again filled with the wonderful cheers and noises of all the young children playing.

Kashf al-Ghummah, Vol. 3, P. 187

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Salāmun ʿalaykum: Peace be upon you

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Taqwā: God-consciousness

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

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